Removing Gender BIAS towards young lady officers of Armed Forces

3418. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are exercising gender bias in not extending the tenure of young lady officers of Armed Forces after completion of 10 year commissioned service whereas similarly placed men officers are considered for regular commission in the Armed Forces ;

(b) if so, whether Government are thinking of utilising the valuable experience gained and expertise developed by these lady officers in comparable status civilian jobs in Armed Forces; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) No, Sir, there is no gender bias. Terms and conditions for recruitment/commission of officers for Short Service Commission/ Permanent Commission is identical for both the sexes in Armed Forces Medical Services.

Lady officers are granted Short Service Commission for a period of 5 years, extendable by another 5 years. However, no provision exists for grant of Permanent Commission for lady officers in the Army. This constraint is on account of practical problems of deployment since lady officers cannot be posted to field areas, line of control, international border etc. The Women Special Entry Scheme (Officers) was created as a support cadre for a limited duration and grant of Permanent Commission to lady officers is not feasible due to service considerations.

(b) and (c) No such proposal is being considered at present.

Release of open Defence land surrounded by civilian colonies in Secunderabad Cantonment

3419. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government would release several pockets of open Defence lands of Secunderabad Cantonment surrounded by massive civilian population in favour of Andhra Pradesh Government in exchange of alternate more security-

risk-free land as it was done in the past, for several such pockets of Defence open vacant lands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) to (c) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh had identified some isolated pockets of defence land in Secunderabad Cantonment for locating essential services like Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC), Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board (APSEB), Bus Station and Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) Service in exchange of State Government equal value land. The State Government have not furnished details of land to be exchanged with Defence lands.

Army Award for present FM

3420. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present Finance Minister has been selected for the award of a medal by the Army authorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the excellence for which this award is proposed to be given to a civilian who has not rendered any meritorious service in the battlefield ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) to (c) The Army Headquarters had recommended for the award of a medal to the present Finance Minister. The recommendation of Army Headquarters did not find favour of the Competent Authority.

Demining of cultivable land in Rajasthan

3421. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the method used by the army to demine the cultivable land in the border areas of Rajasthan and other places;

(b) whether it is considered to be obsolete and time consuming;